

CLAIMS

1. Method for operating a tracking device (20) operatively connected to a container (10) and having at a remote communication device (26), comprising the steps of:

performing a positioning information obtaining procedure concerning said container (10);

sensing whether said tracking device (20) is in proximity to an aircraft;

said step of sensing in turn comprising the step of detecting electromagnetic fields emitted by said aircraft;

disabling emission of radio frequency signals from said remote communication device (26) if proximity to an aircraft is indicated in said step of sensing,

characterised by the further step of:

re-enabling emission of radio frequency signals from said remote communication device (26) if lack of proximity to an aircraft is indicated in said step of sensing simultaneously as said step of performing a positioning information obtaining procedure is successful.

2. Method according to claim 1, **characterised by** the further steps of:

measuring a time period during which lack of proximity to an aircraft continuously is indicated in said step of sensing; and

re-enabling emission of radio frequency signals from said remote communication device (26) if said time period exceeds a predetermined value.

3. Method according to claim 2, **characterised in that** said predetermined value is larger than a maximum flight time from a globally most remote flight position.

4. Method according to claim 3, **characterised in that** said predetermined value is larger than a maximum flight time for said aircraft on battery backup.

5. Method according to any of the claims 1 to 4, **characterised in that** said step of performing a positioning information obtaining procedure in turn comprises the step of determining a GPS position.
6. Method according to any of the claims 1 to 5, **characterised in that** said step of detecting in turn comprises the step of detecting electromagnetic field frequencies in the range of 400 Hz.
7. Tracking device (20) for remote monitoring of a container (10) to which said tracking device (20) is operatively connected, said tracking device (20) comprising:
- positioning system (22) to obtain positioning information concerning said container (10);
 - remote communication device (26);
 - control system (24) connected to said positioning system (22) and said remote communication device (26); and
 - detector (30) for sensing whether said tracking device (20) is in proximity to an aircraft, said detector (30) being connected to said control system (24);
- said detector (30) comprising an electromagnetic field sensor, sensing electromagnetic fields emitted by said aircraft;
- said control system (24) being arranged to disable emission of radio frequency signals from said remote communication device (26) responsive to an output of said detector (30) indicating proximity to an aircraft,
- characterised in that**
- said control system (24) being arranged to re-enable emission of radio frequency signals from said remote communication device (26) responsive to a lack of an output of said detector (30) indicating proximity to an aircraft simultaneously as said positioning system (22) being able to obtain positioning information.

8. Tracking device according to claim 7, **characterised in that** said control system (24) being arranged to also re-enable emission of radio frequency signals from said remote communication device (26) responsive to a lack of an output of said detector (30) indicating proximity to an aircraft during a time period exceeding a predetermined value.

9. Tracking device according to claim 8, **characterised in that** said control system (24) further comprises a timer (36) arranged to clock said time period.

10. Tracking device according to claim 8 or 9, **characterised in that** said predetermined value is larger than a maximum flight time from a globally most remote flight position.

11. Tracking device according to claim 10, **characterised in that** said predetermined value is larger than a maximum flight time on battery backup.

12. Tracking device according to any of the claims 7 to 11, **characterised in that** said positioning system (22) is a GPS system.

13. Tracking device according to any of the claims 7 to 12, **characterised in that** said electromagnetic field sensor is arranged to sense electromagnetic field frequencies in the range of 400 Hz.

14. Container (10) for airfreight, having tracking device (20) for remote monitoring of said container (10), said tracking device (20) comprising:

positioning system (22) to obtain positioning information concerning said container (10);

remote communication device (26);

control system (24) connected to said positioning system (22) and said remote communication device (26); and

detector (30) for sensing whether said container (10) is in proximity to an aircraft, said detector (30) being connected to said control system (24);

said detector (30) comprising an electromagnetic field sensor, sensing electromagnetic fields emitted by said aircraft;

said control system (24) being arranged to disable emission of radio frequency signals from said remote communication device (26) responsive to an output of said detector (30) indicating proximity to an aircraft,

characterised in that

said control system (24) being arranged to re-enable emission of radio frequency signals from said remote communication device (26) responsive to a lack of an output of said detector (30) indicating proximity to an aircraft simultaneously as said positioning system (22) being able to obtain positioning information.